

FIRE ADVISORY

Kaibab National Forest



Website: www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab
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Ignitions Begin Today on Dry Park PU1 Rx

FREDONIA, Ariz. – As weather conditions continue to present ideal conditions for prescribed burning on the North Kaibab Ranger District, North Zone fire managers are preparing to implement a prescribed fire treatment today in order to reduce an estimated 5 to 7 tons of surface fuels per acre in the Dry Park PU1 project area today.

In wildfire management terms, surface fuels are defined as dead and down surface litter on the soil surface. This litter typically consists of fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones and small branches that have not yet decayed enough to lose their identity, as well as, grasses, forbs, low and medium shrubs, tree seedlings, downed logs, and stumps.

“Prescribed fire treatments greatly decrease the fuel loading on the forest floor and can greatly reduce the threat of high-intensity wildland fire,” said District Ranger, Randall Walker. “Unfortunately, the window of opportunity for prescribed burning is very small. Weather, air quality and forest conditions are constantly changing which often makes forecasting the exact day of a prescribed burn difficult. Therefore, we often cannot provide long-range notice to the public of burn dates. However, we make every effort possible to provide the public with the most accurate and timely information available.”

The Dry Park PU1 project is approximately 854 acres in size. The unit is bound by FSR 422 on the north, FSR 226 on the east, FSR 6954 on the south, and FSR 206 on the west. The burn unit is predominantly composed of mixed conifer and aspen with areas of ponderosa pine.

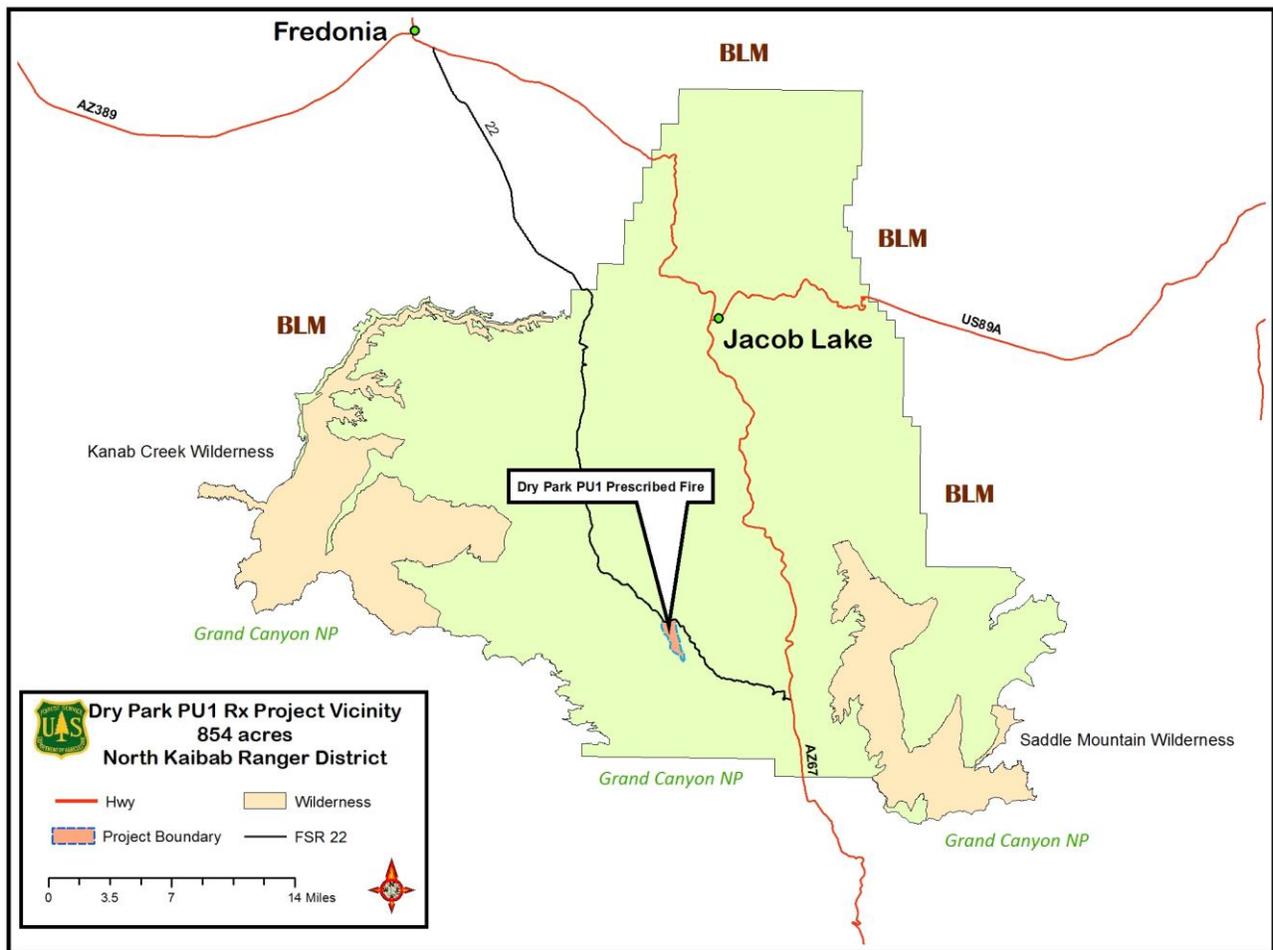
During these prescribed treatments, visitors may see fire personnel and fire vehicles in the vicinity when any prescribed fire is being implemented. Visitors should drive slowly, turn on headlights, and avoid stopping in areas where fire personnel are working.

All prescribed burning on the Kaibab National Forest is subject to approval by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and appropriate weather conditions. For additional information on the Smoke Management Division of the ADEQ and to view prescribed burns authorized for any given day, visit <http://www.azdeq.gov/enviro/air/smoke/index.html>.

“Air quality is always a top consideration when planning any prescribed fire,” said Walker. “Although smoke resulting from prescribed fires is a concern for the community, the smoke produced from these burns is considerably less than from unplanned wildland fires. To help mitigate smoke impacts we select days to burn when weather conditions will help move smoke up and away from our neighboring communities, and we break up our prescribed burn plan into several smaller blocks so that smaller amounts of smoke are produced at any one time.”

Get fire activity updates and maps 24 hours-a-day:

Fire Information Line at 928-635-8311
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